

April 6, 1979

LB 593

CLERK: Mr. President, LB 593 introduced by the Appropriations Committee. (Read by title for the first time LB 593 as found on Page 1345 of the Legislative Journal.)

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: The Chair would like to accept...to introduce a very special visitor. He's also another birthday boy. It's R. C. Johnson of Mead. He was Sergeant at Arms in 1951 and this is his 89th birthday today. R. C., where are you...I know you'll...just stand up. He's under the north balcony. Good morning. Happy Birthday to you, R. C.

R. C. JOHNSON: Thank you. Mr. Speaker, may I respond with a word or two?

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: I know you will whether I say you can or not, so go ahead. Go ahead, R. C.

R. C. JOHNSON: Well I just...I just learned yesterday on the birthday card I received how to get to 100 years old. First get to 99. Well I'm looking forward to my 90th. It will be on April 6th, Easter Sunday, April the 6th in 1980, and believe it or not, I was born on an Easter Sunday, April the 6th in 1890. Well, I'm sure most of you senators remember in Ripley's Believe It or Not strip on April the 6th of 1947 he had the picture of a colored man who lived in Kansas. I don't know the name of the town. I've forgotten that, but his name was Chambers. His first name was Sambo, and I've often wondered if he was a relative of Ernest Chambers in Omaha. Well, because this is the first time he'd had a birthday on Easter Sunday, and he was 57 years old. Well Ripley evidently hadn't heard of R. C. Johnson at Mead, and a thousand others in every state of the Union who had those same birthdays. Well, I used to think that three score and ten was old, but now I believe like the late Jack Benny, had a party given him on his 80th birthday. He said, "age is strictly a case of mind over matter...if you don't mind it doesn't matter." I know this to be the truth, because thirty years of my life I couldn't weigh on a penny scale, so I know that 300...my mind was over 300 pounds of matter for thirty years. Well, Mr. Speaker, I'm cognizant of the fact that every minute that I speak I'm taking money from the taxpayers of Nebraska. I sometimes wonder if Senator Chambers has ever thought of this. Thank you.

PRESIDENT LUEDTKE: Thank you, R. C., and a Happy Birthday to you. Mr. Clerk, do you have a matter that we should take up at this time?